Court Summons Against HPC Chairman

2884. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any summons for contempt of court had been issued against the Chairman, HPC by the Civil Court, Karnal in May, 1996;

(b) the funds spent so far on this litigation;

(c) whether the regional office Chandigarh/ General Manager Office, Delhi has/had engaged an advocate out of its regular panel, on high fees, to contest this case;

(d) the expected loss to the corporation by way of litigation;

(e) whether there are any possibilities of compromise; and

(f) whether the HPC has/had released the lubricants to the resellers, without appointing them as regular dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the contempt case HPCL incurred an expenditure of Rs. 9300 towards legal fees.

(c) HPCL did not engage an advocate out of its regular panel for the contempt case.

(d) and (e) The revival of dealership would be tantamount to grant of new dealership which is against the present policy guidelines. Therefore, as a matter of principle, HPCL did not make any supplies of M/s Dhanpat Rai & Sons since 1973. There is no scope for any compromise as the same is not permissible under present policy.

(f) No, Sir.

Coverage of SCs/STs Under IRDP in Maharashtra

2885. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory that 50 percent of the coverage under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) should be for SCs/STs and funds should be provided accordingly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this stipulation is being followed in the implementation of IRDP in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, what was the coverage of SC/ ST families in the State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) how the people living below poverty line are being covered under IRDP in the State, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage of SC/ST beneficiaries assisted under IRDP and the proportion of assistance flowing to them is shown in. statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The target of 50% of coverage of SCs/ STs applied to all states including Maharashtra.

(d) Coverage of SC/ST families in Maharashtra during the last three years is given in statement-II (*see* below).

(e) According to instructions issued by this Department to all states, including Maharashtra, a survey is conducted at the beginning of each Plan period to identify families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL). According to the BPL Survey for the Eighth Five Year Plan, households having annual income below Rs. 11,000 have been identified as poor. The list of BPL families is put up to the Gram Sabha for approval and selection of IRDP beneficiaries is made from this list.